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GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD.

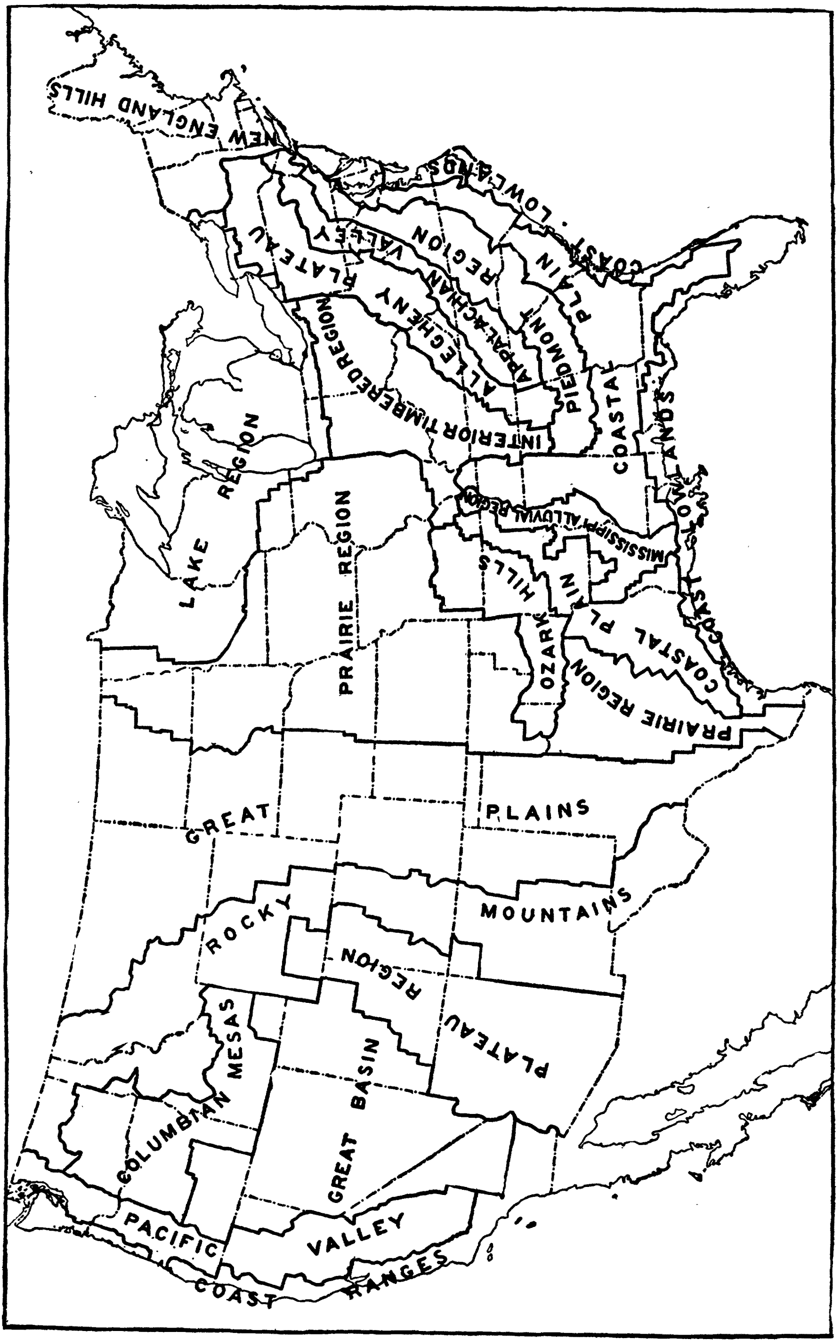
AMERICA.

TOPOGRAPHY AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF OUR POPULATION.—Dr. Walter F. Willcox, Professor of Social Science and Statistics in Cornell and Chief Statistician in the Census Office in charge of the division of Methods and Results, has made a distinct departure in census work in a discussion of the area and population of the country, recently published as Census Bulletin No. 149. He has classified the area and population of the continental United States on the basis of its topographic divisions. The results of Dr. Willcox's study have to do with the influence which physiographic features tend to exert on the distribution of our population.

The boundaries of the topographic divisions of our country are not sharply defined, geographers not being wholly agreed as to their extent and number. The topographic divisions adopted by Mr. Gannett, the Geographer of the Census, and used by Dr. Willcox in his discussion, are those which are generally accepted. The boundaries of the divisions, as shown on the accompanying map, were adjusted to coincide with county lines in order that the statistics collected might be applied to each division. With this qualification the extent of each topographic division was determined by considerations of geology, topography, altitude, rainfall, and temperature. A condensed statement of Dr. Willcox's report follows:

Coast Lowlands.—A marshy area stretching along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts from New Jersey to the Rio Grande. The borders of the swamps along the Atlantic coast are being drained and converted into farms. A considerable area in the Carolinas is utilized for rice plantations. The coast lowlands, in the main, are well timbered, principally with cypress and juniper. Area, 82,807 square miles, or 2.8 per cent. of our continental area. Population, 1,865,952, or 2.4 per cent. of the total.

Coastal Plain.—A strip of land along the Atlantic and the Gulf between the lowlands and the Piedmont region. It stretches from New York Bay to the Mississippi, on both sides of which it extends northward to the Ohio river. As it is cut into two parts by the Mississippi alluvial region, it is treated in Dr. Willcox's map and tables as two divisions. The coastal plain east of the Mississippi has an area of 167,097 square miles, or 5.6 per cent. of the total. Being good farming land and having many industries, it has a far larger



TOPOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS OF THE UNITED STATES.

population in proportion to area than the coast lowlands. Population, 6,427,635, or 8.4 per cent. Area of the coastal plain west of the Mississippi, 87,726 square miles, or 3 per cent.; population, 1,974,677, or 2.6 per cent.

Piedmont Region.—Extends from New York Bay, southwest, to the western boundary of Alabama; bordered on the southeast by the coastal plain, the limit between the two being set by the Fall line, where the streams, passing from the hard granite rocks of the Piedmont region to the soft tertiary rocks of the coastal plain, have rapids, or falls, marking the limit of navigation from the sea. Manufacturing towns from Trenton, N. J., to Montgomery, Ala., use the water power thus afforded. Area, 89,920 square miles, or 3 per cent.; population, 6,809,103, or 9 per cent.

Appalachian Valley.—The narrow mountain region extending from the Hudson to northeastern Alabama between the Piedmont region and the Allegheny plateau. Most of this region forms a depression, drained in different parts by different streams. Area, 54,519 square miles, or 1.8 per cent.; population, 4,499,072, or 5.9 per cent.

New England Hills.—Properly part of the Appalachian mountain system, but is here distinguished on account of its difference in character. The mountains, instead of being disposed in parallel ridges, are mainly isolated, irregular groups, such as the hills of Maine, the White Mountains, and the Adirondacks. Area, 82,696 square miles, or 2.8 per cent.; population, 10,260,153, or 13.5 per cent.

Allegheny Plateau.—A forested escarpment extends, more or less continuously, from the Hudson river, southwesterly, to Alabama, rising from the northwestern border of the Appalachian Valley. From its summit stretches a plateau with a general northwestern slope everywhere deeply scored into cañons by streams which have cut the plateau into very irregular ridges and gorges, making it one of the most intricate mountain regions on the globe. Dr. Willcox does not mention the fact that, largely owing to difficulties of transportation, the central part of this plateau, extending through eastern Kentucky and Tennessee, is one of the least progressive parts of the country. Area, 99,539 square miles, or 3.4 per cent.; popution, 6,070,246, or 8 per cent.

Interior Timbered Region.—Comprises most of Ohio, Indiana, southern Illinois, western Kentucky, and western central Tennessee. When first entered by the white man it was quite generally covered with forests. Area, 118,326 square miles, or 4 per cent.; population, 8,129,760, or 10.7 per cent.

Lake Region.—The country bordering the Great Lakes is included under this name. It is heavily forested, mainly by conifers, and is the largest source of white pine lumber and iron ore. Area, 173,302 square miles, or 5.8 per cent.; population, 9,571,215, or 12.6 per cent.

Prairie Region.—A region of transition from the forested country on the east to the barren plains on the west. On the east it merges, by insensible degrees, into the forest regions, and on the west, by equally insensible degrees, into the Great Plains. As its rainfall is rather light, most species of trees cannot thrive; the greatest region of wheat and maize, and the industries depending upon them. Area, 454,991 square miles, or 15.3 per cent.; population, 13,300,970, or 17.5 per cent.

Mississippi Alluvial Region—Lies mainly below the high-water mark of the rivers traversing it. The rivers, by deposit, have built low, flat ridges along their courses, which, except in times of extraordinary floods, confine them and protect the lower country. The only habitable parts are these river ridges, the lower country consisting of swamps. Thus, throughout this region the habitable portion of the land forms but a small part of it. These river ridges are well cultivated; in Louisiana, mainly in sugar, while higher up on the river almost the sole crop is cotton. The soil is extremely fertile. Area, 41,713 square miles, or 1.4 per cent.; population, 1,227,094, or 1.6 per cent.

Ozark Hills.—The southern portion, in central Arkansas and the Indian Territory, is composed of winding ridges of quartzite separated by limestone valleys; the northern portion, in north Arkansas and south Missouri, is a plateau sloping northward, and deeply scored by cañons. Area, 62,195 square miles, or 2.1 per cent.; population, 1,203,880, or 1.6 per cent.

Great Plains.—They merge insensibly with the prairie region, the line between them being set at the line of normal annual rainfall of twenty inches. The rainfall is insufficient for agriculture, and irrigation is necessary, the available water sufficing for only a small part of the land. The plains are occupied mainly by cattle and sheep. Area, 460,994 square miles, or 15.5 per cent.; population, 1,052,719, or 1.4 per cent.

Cordilleran Region.—The Great Plains form the long eastern slope of a plateau, the summit of which extends to the Cascade Range and the Sierra Nevada. A vast number of mountain ranges and plateaux and elevated valleys are on the slopes and summit of this plateau. Except in western Oregon and Washington, the climate is arid. Forests are found, as a rule, only upon mountain ranges and the highest of the plateaux. This region has been subdivided into several areas.

Rocky Mountains.—The division includes the most eastern of the mountain systems in the Cordillera. It is composed of a series of ranges separated by valleys trending parallel to one another. Area, 296,220 square miles, or 10 per cent.; population, 592,972, or 0.8 per cent.

Plateau Region.—Comprises most of the drainage basin of the Colorado river. Every stream is in a cañon; and as the rainfall is light, most of these cañons are dry during the greater part of the year. The higher plateaux, having ample rainfall, are green and forested; while the lower plateaux are covered with sparse vegetation or are absolutely sterile. Area, 188,422 square miles, or 6.3 per cent.; population, 201,699, or 0.3 per cent.

Great Basin.—Has no drainage to the sea. The only outlet for its waters is by sinking into the thirsty soil or by evaporation. With the exception of the country along the lower Colorado and Gila rivers, this is the most desert part of the country. Area, 229,869 square miles, or 7.7 per cent.; population, 375,345, or 0.5 per cent.

Columbian Mesas.—The area drained by the Snake river, and most of that drained by the Columbia above its passage through the Cascade Range, has been in great part covered by eruptions of basalt, which, bursting through the overlying rock, spread over the country, and form great table lands for thousands of square miles. Area, 112,525 square miles, or 3.8 per cent.; population, 356,758, or 0.5 per cent.

Pacific Valley.—Lying parallel to the Pacific coast a short distance inland is a great depression, extending from British Columbia southward into southern California. The regions along some of the rivers and other bodies of water in this depression, as Puget Sound, the Willamette river of Oregon, and the Sacramento and San Joaquin of California, are among the most fertile regions of the Pacific slope. Area, 106,549 square miles, or 3.6 per cent.; population, 995,363, or 1.3 per cent.

Coast Ranges—Separate the Pacific Valley from the Pacific Ocean. These ranges, trending parallel with the coast, are heavily timbered in Oregon, Washington, and northern California, but are almost devoid of forests in southern California. The valleys, especially in southern California, are very fertile, and produce a great variety of fruits, many of which are tropical. Area, 60,820 square miles, or 2.1 per cent.; population, 1,079,992, or 1.4 per cent.

The Great Plains are thus shown to be the most extensive topographic division, closely followed by the prairie region, the two together including nearly one-third (30.8 per cent.) of the continental United States. The eastern boundary of the Great Plains about bisects the country, 49 per cent. of the area of the continental United States lying west of that north and south line, and 51 per cent. lying east of it.

The prairie region and the New England Hills include over three-tenths, or 31 per cent., of the population of the country; while the Lake region and the Interior Timber region include over one-half, or 55.3 per cent., of the population.

ASIA.

DEVELOPMENT OF KIAO-CHAU.—The *Revue de Géographie* (XXV, 2, 1901) gives an account, by Mr. André Brisse, of the progress of the German colony in China. Sixteen hundred German soldiers and 200 civilians, besides 80,000 Chinese, are living in the German concession and in the "Neutral Zone." The concession borders Kiao-chau Bay; the Neutral Zone extends inland from the concession, is eleven and a half miles wide on an average, and is practically under German protection. The Chinese town of Kiao-chau is in the Neutral Zone, and has little importance in comparison with Tsingtau, at the entrance to the bay, which has been transformed by the Germans from a Chinese village to a modern town, lighted with electricity and having the telephone and other urban conveniences. Tsingtau is the starting-point of the railroad which the Germans are now building across Shantung province.

The climate is fairly healthful, particularly since hygienic measures have diminished the prevalence of fevers. The harbours in the large bay have not equalled expectations; but two artificial harbours are now being constructed, one of which will have a depth of ten and the other of six metres. The deeper harbour will be completed, it is expected, in 1906. The Chinese had almost entirely denuded the region of trees, and in consequence a great deal of the soil was washed away by torrents. The German administration is now giving much attention to tree-planting.

No evidence of minerals or coal has been found on the concession, though the prospect of coal mining along the line of the projected railroad is excellent, and iron is also abundant in the province. The intention of the Germans is not only to make Kiao-chau bay important as a coaling station and a commercial centre, but also to tap the resources of the rich Shantung province. The main agency in this work will be the railroad now building from Tsingtau to Tsinan-fu, in the western part of the province. The commerce of the colony is as yet small.

RUSSIAN FARMERS IN THE KIRGHIZ STEPPES.—North of the Aral Sea are the wide, low, grassy Khirgiz steppes, inhabited by the steppe Kirghiz, nomad herdsmen, who have no settled abode, but move over their plains as the whim seizes them or the need of pasturage for their herds requires. Important changes are occurring in this region, owing to the incoming of Russian immigrants. The present inhabitants are the native Kirghiz, the Cossacks and the Russian peasants, who are entering the country in large numbers, 24,602 having arrived there in 1900. The new settlers are occupying many of the fertile tracts, each new settlement meaning a loss of pasturage to the enormous Kirghiz herds and flocks. The natives have little aptitude for any vocation except raising cattle and sheep and hunting, while the newcomers are farmers. As the Kirghiz have no desire to acquire Western ideas, it seems probable that, as the grazing lands for their live stock decrease, the animal industry will diminish and the Kirghiz themselves will dwindle in number. The Russian immigrants are prospering, though the scarcity of water is an uncomfortable condition in many places. It is hoped to improve the water supply by digging wells. According to Mr. Labbé, who has reported the above facts, the plain presents excellent commercial opportunities (*Questions Diplomatiques et Coloniales*, 1901).

EUROPE.

ARE THERE LAKES IN THE CAUCASUS ?—Professor G. Richter points out that Merzbacher's recent work, "Aus den Hochregionen des Kaukasus," repeats the familiar statement that the Caucasus Mountains are devoid of lakes and waterfalls. This is very remarkable, as the Caucasus consists, for the most part, of a true mountain chain like the backbone of the Alps, and, no less than the Alps, the mountains have been subjected to glaciation. Lakes and waterfalls, when found among the higher mountains, are signs of glaciation, so that their absence in the Caucasus remains to be accounted for.

The author is of the opinion that lakes do exist there, and will be found when explorers devote attention to the lateral valleys instead of confining themselves to the region still occupied by glaciers. He compares our knowledge of the Caucasus with that which would have been obtained of the Alps if exploration had been confined to Chamonix, Zermatt, and the Bernese Alps. Richter believes that rightly-directed exploration will also reveal waterfalls in the Caucasus. There can be no doubt that marginal lakes (Randseen) are absent in the region; and this proves that the glaciers did not extend down over the plains. All the Swiss marginal lakes of large size lie in moraines at the end of old glacier beds; where, as in the case of the Mur and Enn glaciers, the glacier stopped in the mountains, lakes are absent. The glaciers of the Caucasus must, therefore, have been of this character. (*Geographische Zeitschrift*, VII) *Scot. Geog. Mag.*, March, 1902.

IMPORTS OF VEGETABLES INTO SWITZERLAND.—The "*Journal de la Société d'horticulture de France*," 1901, says that the importation of fresh vegetables into Switzerland in the tourist season last year amounted to 20,000 tons, the larger part coming from Germany, though the importations from France and Italy were also important. The Swiss Government is now endeavouring to encourage the larger cultivation of vegetables in order to reduce the imports. Beef cattle and other food supplies are also purchased to a great extent from neighbouring countries. As mountains cover more than half of the country, Switzerland cannot raise the enormous quantities of food consumed by tourists. In fact, Switzerland derives less support from agricultural resources than any other country in Europe, except Norway. Only about a sixth of the area of the country is capable of cultivation.

A WATER ROUTE TO SWITZERLAND.—Switzerland is the only important country in Europe, except Servia, that has no sea coast. According to one of our recent *Consular Reports*, Mr. Gelpke, a young Swiss engineer, has submitted a plan to the Government for an all-water route from the city of Basel to the North Sea. Basel, on the Rhine, is about 400 miles from Rotterdam, the nearest port on the North Sea. Mr. Gelpke proposes to render the Rhine navigable for freight steamers at all seasons of the year by regulating its water-level. He suggests that fourteen dams be built between Basel and Mannheim to raise the water-level along that stretch of the river. Mr. Gelpke's plan is receiving consideration from the Government, as well as another project, which is to build a canal from Basel to connect with the famous Rhine-Rhone canal that now enables small Rhine boats to travel all the way to Marseilles. The Rhine-Rhone canal starts from Mülhausen, on the Rhine, and extends in a southwest direction to the Doubs river, which is a navigable tributary of the Rhone.

OCEANIA AND AUSTRALIA.

A NEW SOURCE OF PHOSPHATE.—Ocean Island, a little rock in the Pacific somewhat south of the Equator and 200 miles west of the Gilbert group, appears on few maps, and has been little known. Its native name is Paanopa. According to the *North China Herald*, rich deposits of phosphates, found some time ago on this island, are now being shipped to Australia and New Zealand to fertilize the fields, just as the phosphates of Chile are sent by millions of tons to spread over the cultivated lands of north Europe. There is no good anchorage; but mooring buoys have been placed on two sides of the island, to which steamers may make fast while loading the phosphate brought to them on lighters. There is deep water close to the shore. The phosphate industry is carried on by the Pacific Islands Company, which has secured exclusive rights, and employs 220 hands. The island has recently been annexed by the British Government. It is about 1,600 miles from Brisbane, Queensland.

AUSTRALIAN TRANS-CONTINENTAL RAILROAD.—*Globus* says that a railroad is to be built from Fort Augusta, on the south coast of Australia, to the Coolgardie mines. As these mines are connected by rail with Perth, on the west coast, the enterprise will complete the first trans-continental railroad in Australia.

The road will run quite near the sea, where a telegraph has for years connected the eastern and western coasts of the continent. Nine-tenths of the mileage will be through one of the most barren deserts in the world; but the building of railroads through deserts no longer offers unknown problems to engineers. This railroad will complete the connection by rail of all the important centres of population in Australia, excepting some isolated settlements on the north and northeast coasts. Heretofore, it has always been necessary to travel by sea between Perth, Fremantle, and Albany, the most important towns in western Australia, and the more developed regions of Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland.

AFRICA.

DODSON'S TRIP IN THE SAHARA.—A large part of the Hinterland of Tripoli has hitherto been forbidden ground. This little-known region, according to the *Scottish Geographical Magazine* (March, 1902), has just been traversed by Mr. Edward Dodson. He succeeded in mapping considerable new country, and collected data for alterations in the existing maps. After reaching Sofejin, about 120 miles southeast of the city of Tripoli, he made a detour to strike a Roman reservoir, where it was expected that water, a scarce commodity, might be obtained. This reservoir, a fine piece of ancient stone masonry, was found in a remarkable state of preservation; the cement had not been impaired and the structure was water-tight. Along the route patches of brilliantly-colored flowers were found in the dried beds of torrential streams. They were of the nature of "everlasting flowers;" for, brilliant as they appeared, they had been completely dried by the heat and drought.

Further south, the people of the Bonjem oasis were found to be nearly starving, as the failure of water had reduced them to subsisting on snails and date-palm juice. Buildings erected here during the Roman occupation are in excellent condition; one of them covers an area of 3,600 square yards, with a gateway twelve feet thick. These buildings are in striking contrast with the miserable structures erected later by the Arabs. The four days' journey from Bonjem to Sokna involved intense suffering, as the party was without water. Sokna, already well known, is a small oasis with a population of 2,000 and a Turkish garrison of 200 men. In continuing the journey to Murzuk, some 300 miles further south, the Jibil Soda, or Black Mountains, were crossed. The Black Mountains consist of large slabs of perfectly black stone, and are difficult to cross. Ten hours were occupied in traversing a great petrified forest, in which the trees, all lying prone, vary in circumference from two inches to seven feet. Marine shells, found all through the forest, show that this region was at one time submerged by the sea.

POLAR REGIONS.

ACCORDING TO *Petermanns Mitteilungen*, Band 48, III, the Norwegian professor Birkeland will this year visit Jan Mayen and establish a station for the study of the Aurora Borealis. The Norwegian Government has made an appropriation of 20,000 crowns ($5,400) in aid of the project, on the supposition that the remainder of the amount required (which is not specified) will be forthcoming from other sources.

AN EXPEDITION SENT OUT by the Russian Ministry of Marine will explore the Kara Sea during the summer of 1902.

A LETTER FROM A. BIRULA, zoologist and botanist of Baron Toll's expedition to the New Siberian Islands, to a St. Petersburg paper, establishes the fact that the position assigned to Sannikov

Land by the expedition of 1886 was erroneous; the *Saria* having passed the spot four times without sighting land.

Bennett Island was approached within 14 nautical miles; it was marked by its white peaks above the glaciers and deep valleys, and wholly unlike the Asiatic shore.

Nordenskiöld Sea was free of ice between Cape Chelyuskin and the New Siberian Islands, and north of the Lena-mouth the temperature of the water was above 35 degrees, Fahr.

The Imperial Academy, it is announced, has resolved to push the exploration no further for the present, in view of the difficulties in the way of forwarding supplies of coal. The party will return by land, and the ship will be left at the New Siberian Islands.

CAPT. ROALD AMUNDSEN, first officer of the *Belgica* in her Antarctic voyage, laid before the Norwegian Geographical Society, in November last, his plan of an expedition to determine the position of the magnetic North Pole. In his address Capt. Amundsen quoted Ross's description of his arrival, on the 1st of June, 1831, at the spot in Boothia Felix, where the dipping-needle showed an angle of 89° 59′ with the plane of the horizon. The magnetic pole was then practically reached, and its geographical position was fixed by Ross in 70° 5′ N. Lat., 96° 47′ W. Long.

Two questions have since presented themselves:

(1) Whether the magnetic pole is a mere point, or a large area, over which the needle assumes a vertical position;

(2) Whether the magnetic pole is stationary or changes its position.

Capt. Amundsen will endeavour to find answers to these questions. His purpose is to start in the spring of 1903 in the *Gjöa*, a sloop, fitted with a petroleum engine, and provisioned for four years for the party of seven men.

Besides an ample supply of meteorological and oceanographic instruments, Capt. Amundsen will take a travelling magnetometer, especially designed for him by Prof. Neumayer, Director of the Deutsche Seewarte, at Hamburg, and an inclinatorium, or dipping-needle, now under construction by Dover, of London.

The course will be to the west coast of Greenland, where dogs will be procured, and thence through Lancaster Sound and Prince Regent Inlet to Bellot Strait, and along the west coast of Boothia to the spot of Ross's magnetic pole, where a depot, or cache, will be left. A winter haven will be established either on Matty Island or on King William Land. The autumn of 1903 will be devoted to making depots for the following year; and the winter to magnetic and meteorological observations. When the severest cold is passed Capt. Amundsen will set off with three men and two sledges for Boothia to study the region around the magnetic pole, and make the greatest possible number of scientific determinations. This part of the programme he hopes to carry out before the setting in of winter.

If successful in this he will establish himself, with one companion, near the magnetic pole, and there pass the winter of 1904–5, building snow-huts for a house and an observatory.

His scientific work once done, Capt. Amundsen intends to make the return voyage by way of the Northwest Passage and Bering Strait.*

THE SCOTTISH ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.—The *Hekla*, the vessel purchased for this expedition, arrived at Aberdeen from Norway on the 10th of February, and is undergoing alterations by the Ailsa Shipbuilding Company at Troon. The sledges, skier, kayaks, and some of the woollen clothing will be made in Norway, and Dr. Nansen will supervise the work.

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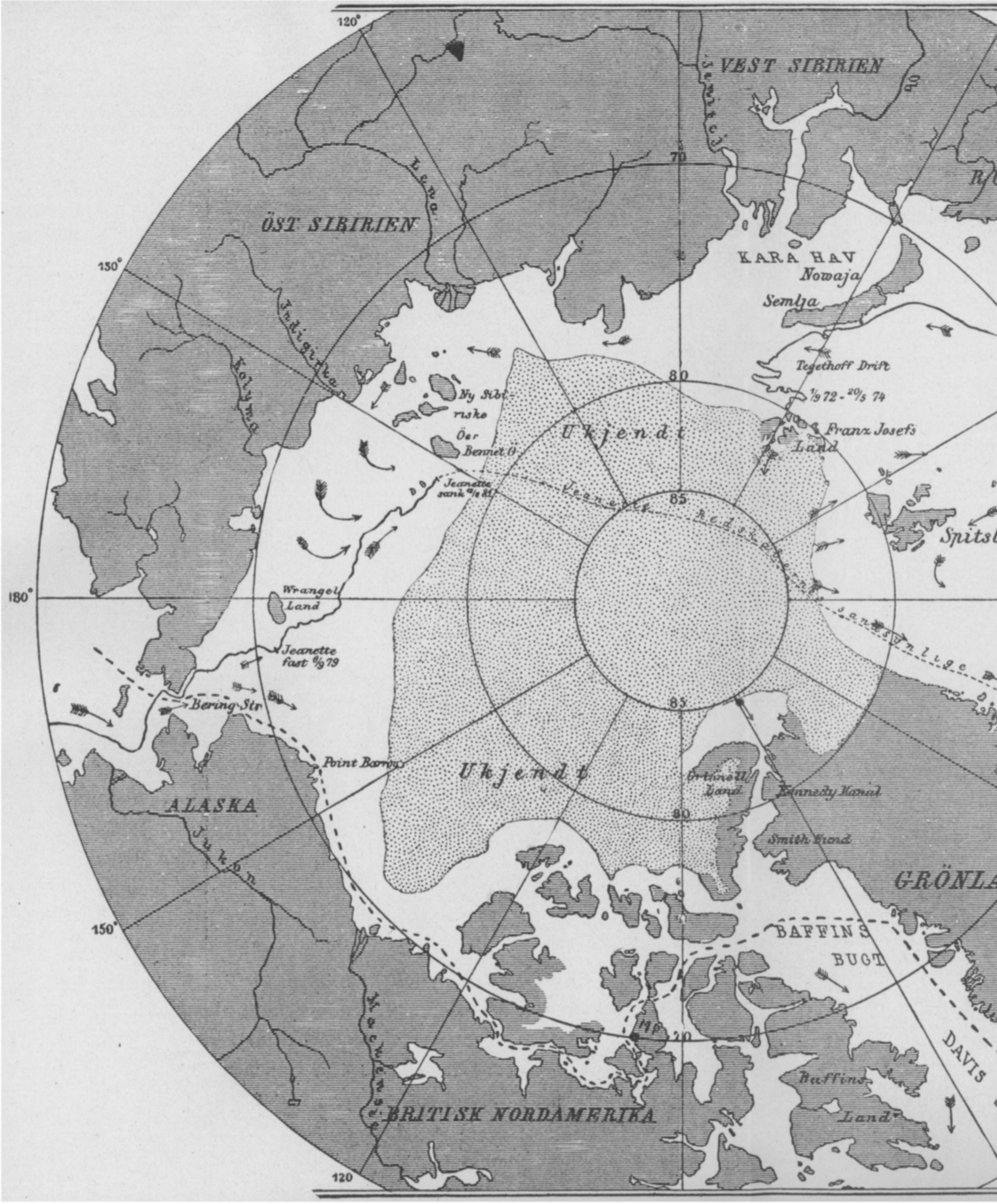
* The Norwegian map is contributed by Mr. H. L. Bridgman.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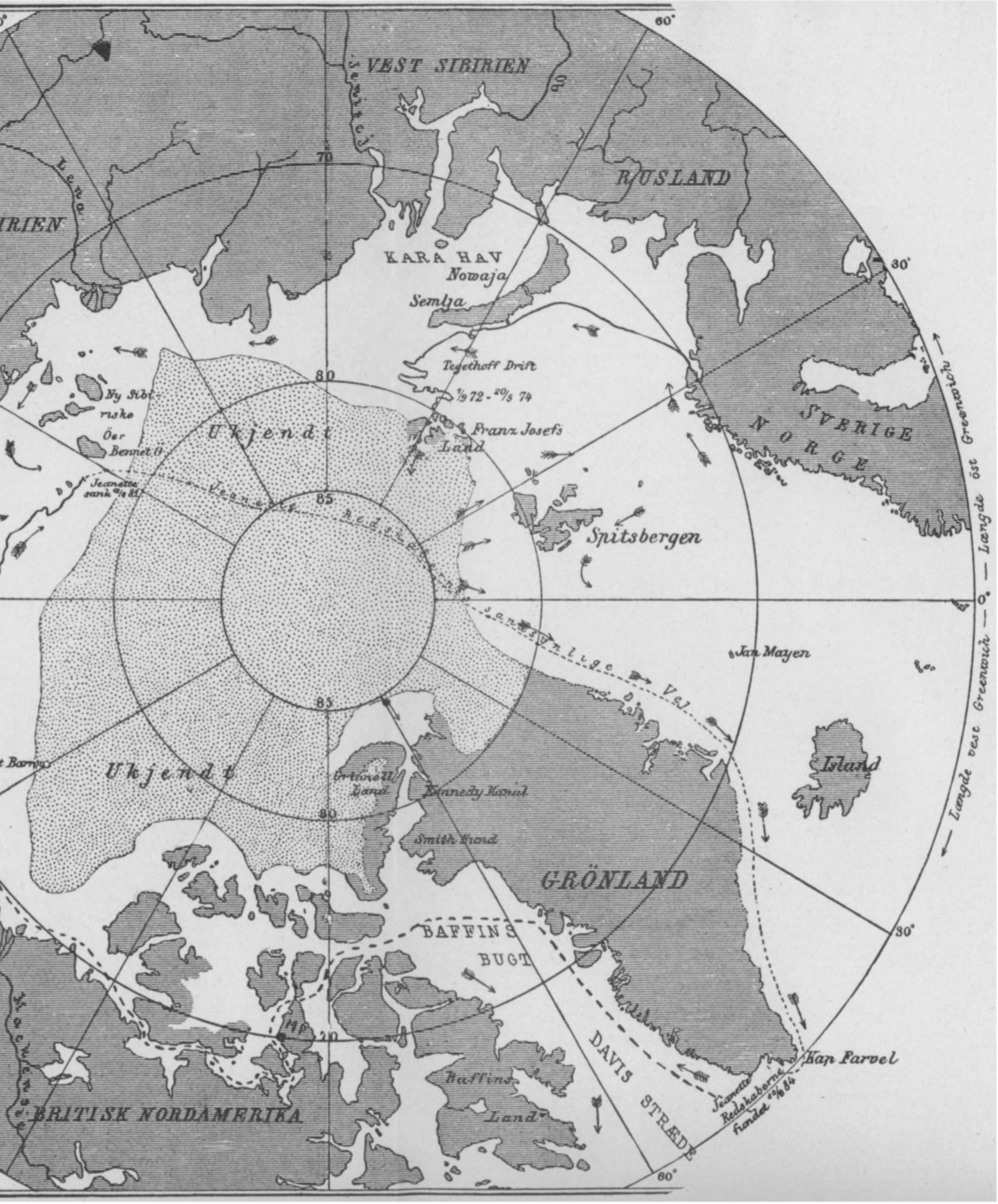
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